

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 12.

HEAD QUARTERS,

East Sub-Dist. of the Plains.

Fort Kearny, N. T., June 5th, 1865.

I.—It is reported at these head quarters that the escorts to stage coaches are in the habit of running their horses—chasing wolves, antelope, and other game, on the prairie, while on duty guarding the stages between stations; and that the men assigned at particular stations exchange their location with others at distant stations, in the performance of which they frequently travel with the stages greater number of miles than assigned to them between their respective stations.

II.—All of these practices are unsoldierly and injurious to the horses they ride.—Post Commandants will adopt the most rigorous means to put an immediate stop to these encroachments on discipline. Whenever any man is guilty of these practices he will be arrested and put on fatigue duty with a ball and chain for thirty days, from reveille 'till retreat of each day, allowing him only sufficient time for his meals and the usual calls of nature.

III.—When there is any proof that the non-commissioned officers in charge of escorts permit any such practices, they will be forthwith reduced to the ranks; and their reduction, together with its cause, thoroughly published to the command by commanding officers of posts.

IV.—Post Commandants must exercise the utmost vigilance over the care of horses. It is not a valid excuse that the stock furnished the troops of this Sub-District does not come up to the standard of cavalry horses. When poor horses are cared for they will improve instead of retrograde; and post commanders should punish with the utmost severity those careless and heartless men who by neglect and over riding, render useless the horses furnished them. Too much lenity is shown among the officers of this command towards this evident and growing evil. The man who neglects and ruins his horse deserves no pity, and should and must be relentlessly punished for every offence, until he learns to treat his horse with proper care and consideration.

V.—Hereafter the cavalry command in this Sub-District will cause the corn fed their horses to be soaked during the night preceding the day on which the same is to be fed, in accordance with instructions from the Assistant Inspector General's Office, Head Quarters District of the Plains.

VI.—The commanding officers of Posts Fort Kearny and Cottonwood, N. T., are charged with the effective promulgation and enforcement of these orders among the cavalry and Q. M. Dep't. within their command; and reports will be made on the last day of each month to these Head Quarters, describing the effect of the change in diet on the public animals in this command.

VII.—The sale or gift of malt, spirituous, or intoxicating liquors of any kind whatever, to soldiers by any person or persons whomsoever, is positively prohibited throughout this Sub-District; and any soldiers found inside of any house or tent known to be a place of business for the selling of liquors will be arrested and punished by any officer so finding him.

VIII.—Any persons violating Par. VII of these orders shall be immediately arrested and confined by any officer to whose knowledge the fact of such violation may come, and proper charges made out and forwarded against them to these Head Quarters.—Any officer serving in this Sub-District to whom any such violation of this order shall be made known, and who fails to arrest and confine said person or persons, shall, on proper proof, be placed in arrest and tried for disobedience. It will be considered scandalous for officers to be seen in these dens, and any officer who shall be known to visit or frequent any of the same, will be reprimanded in General Orders from these Head Quarters, and upon a repetition of the offence, will be recommended for dismissal from the service which he thus disgraces.

BY COMMAND OF COL. R. R. LIVINGSTON:

OFFICIAL:

J. A. Lewis
Assistant Adjutant General.

SAM'L. A. LEWIS.

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.